Summer Term 2: Explorers

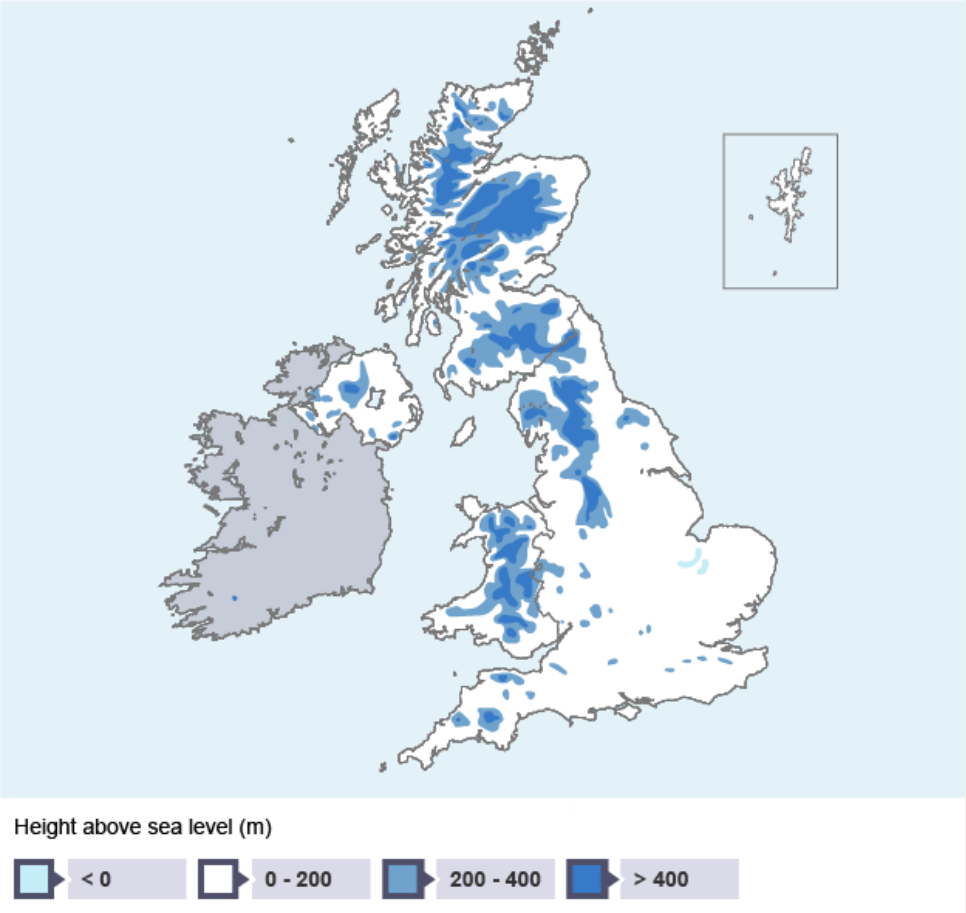
New Tasks - 15.6.20

TASK 4 : Comparison to the UK

Physical Geography of the UK

The island of Great Britain (that is England, Scotland and Wales) is just under 1,000km (600 miles) long and 480km (300 miles) wide. Northern Ireland, meanwhile, is small enough to fit into the mainland about 17 times. Together, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland make up the United Kingdom (UK).

The majority of the UK's upland areas are located in the north and west of the country. These areas are mainly formed from igneous (volcanic) and metamorphic rock. Lowlands are typically found around the coast and in the south and east. These areas are mainly made up of sedimentary rock.



Key physical features of the UK

› Mountains

› Rivers

› National Parks

› Islands

› Coastline

Mountains

Scotland has the tallest mountains in the UK. Two of every three of the UK's peaks over 600 metres (2,000 feet) in height are Scottish, and they're mostly found in a region of Scotland called the Highlands. The highest of the Scottish mountains is Ben Nevis which is so tall that you'll find snow at the summit all year round. It's 1,344 metres (4,400 feet) tall.

Wales is also famous for its impressive mountains. The highest peak is Snowdon and it's 1085 metres (3,560 feet) high. This mountain was once part of a giant crater, formed by the collapse of a volcano 450 million years ago. Since then, it has been shaped by glaciers, and more recently weathered by the alternate freezing and warming (or thawing) weather. There's a cafe and visitor centre at the summit of Snowdon that won an award for its special design. Its claim to fame is that there is no building found at a higher place (or altitude) anywhere in the UK today.

Scafell Pike is England's highest mountain which is 977 metres (3,210 feet) tall.

In Northern Ireland, you can find Slieve Donard which is 852 metres (2,795 feet) tall. On a clear day, you can see Belfast from the peak!

Rivers

Being a relatively small Island, the UK's rivers are not very long. The longest river in the UK is the river Severn which is 220 miles in length. Other major rivers include the Thames, which flows through Oxford and London, and the Trent and Mersey rivers which drain rainfall from large areas of central England.

Among the most important rivers in the UK is the Thames which flows into the North Sea. Its length is 346 km and it is the deepest river in Britain. The importance of the Thames can be seen in the settlements that line its banks. Royal palaces, government buildings, great trading houses, market squares and river crossings all provide links with the past.

The River Severn is 6 miles (10 km) longer than the River Thames, making it the longest river in Great Britain. It flows in a semi-circular route through the Welsh county of Powys and the English counties of Shropshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. The Severn's name is derived from the Latin word Sabrina, previously "Hafren" in Welsh, which means "boundary", and the river forms a physical boundary between England and Wales. The estuary of the River Severn is over five miles wide.

National Parks

There are 15 very special areas of the UK countryside that are protected as national parks.

England has many national parks, but they cover less than 10% of its whole area. In Wales, however, just three parks cover about one fifth of the whole country! They are Snowdonia Pembrokeshire and the Brecon Beacons.

Snowdonia

Pembrokeshire

Brecon Beacons

The Peak District, found right in the heart of the island of Great Britain, is the oldest national park in the UK, and it was made a park in 1951. The hilly limestone that the park is famous for is around 350 million years old.

Coastline

The UK is surrounded by the North Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, Irish Sea and the English Channel, and it has around 17,800 km (11,000 miles) of coastline!

The Jurassic Coast begins in Exmouth, Devon, and continues for 95 miles to Dorset. The Jurassic Coast is England's only natural World Heritage Site. On Dorset's so-called Dinosaur (or Jurassic) Coast you can find rocks with the imprint of the skeleton, or other remains, of ancient creatures that lived more than two hundred million years ago! These rocks are called fossils. Mary Anning was a famous palaeontologist here in the nineteenth century.

Giant's Causeway is an area of approximately 40,000 interlocking basalt columns that are the result of an ancient volcanic eruption. It is in County Antrim on the northeast coast of Northern Ireland. The tops of the columns form stepping stones that lead from the cliff foot and disappear under the sea. The tops of the columns form stepping stones that lead from the cliff foot and disappear under the sea. Most of the columns are hexagonal although there are also some with four, five, seven and eight sides. The tallest columns are about 12 metres (36ft) high, and the solidified lava in the cliffs is 28 metres thick in places.

Islands

With such a long coastline, it's no wonder that the UK also has over a thousand islands to explore. Scotland alone has close to 800 islands although people only live on 99 of them. There are large and well populated islands like the Isle of Wight in Southern England, and also many very small islands, called islets, where nobody has ever lived (except for a few very tough monks or fishermen!).

The Isle of Wight is probably somewhere you can point to on a map. It is England's largest island and it's just off the south coast, close to Portsmouth and Southampton. The Isle of Wight is separated from the mainland by a narrow channel of water called the Solent. It's a great place to sail and famous for one of the oldest regattas in the world: Cowes Week. A thousand boats and eight times as many people take part in this sailing competition at the start of August each year.

TASK 4

From the information in the task 3 resources as well as this session's resources, we would like you to compare physical features of the UK and France. How is the physical geography of France the same as/similar to the UK? What are the differences? Create a table like the one below, and write them up neatly!

	Similarities	Differences
Physical Geography		

Good luck ☺

Please remember to send your work to myself or Mr Bull through the class emails or twitter pages so that we can give you some well-deserved praise and feedback!

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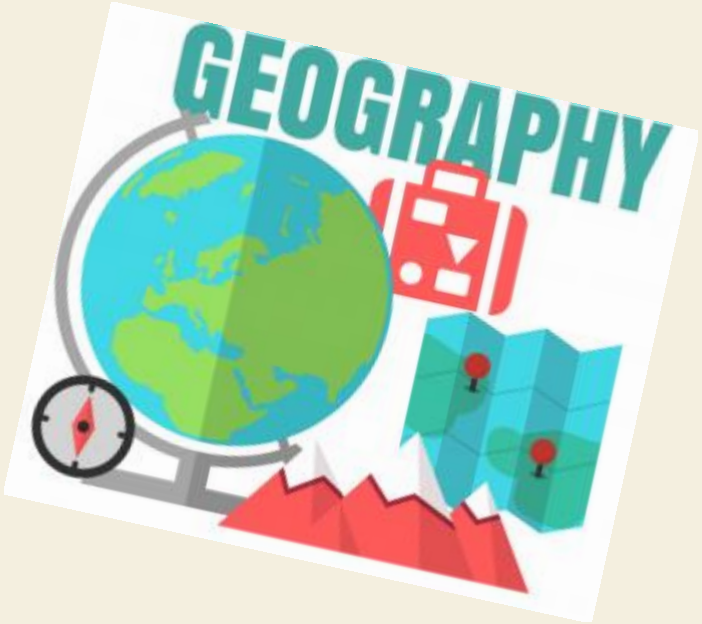
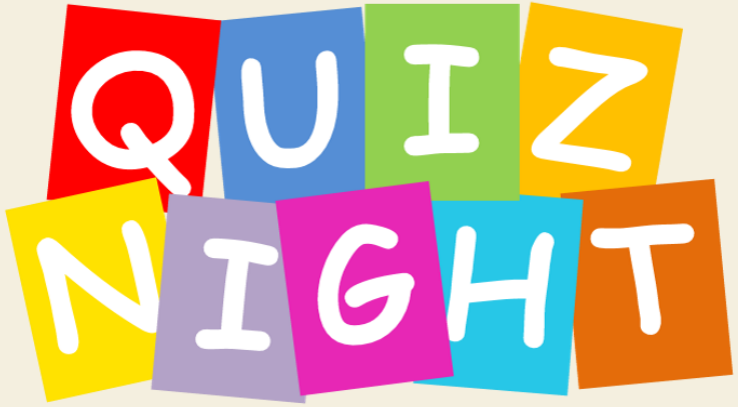
Twitter - @6ltwoodlands
Mr Bull – 6pb@woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk
Twitter - @MrBull6PB

TASK 4 – BONUS TASK!



Like Task 3, you could also create a **geography quiz round** (with a minimum of 10 questions) about the geographical features of the UK!

Write your questions out neatly, and then you can test your friends, your family and your teachers on their knowledge of the UK! Remember - you must know the answers!

If you want to test me or Mr Bull, remember to send your questions to us on twitter or the class emails ☺.